

Young Planners' Conference

**Connecting Town and Country:
Planning for Urban and Rural Areas**

11 – 12 October 2024 #YPCConf2024





RTPI

Royal Town Planning Institute

BREAKOUT 3

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Helena Taylor - Local Nature Recovery
Coordinator, Essex County Council

Gabriella Yeomans - Local Nature Recovery
Strategy Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council

Chair: Bethany Jones - Principal Planning Policy
Officer, Colchester City Council

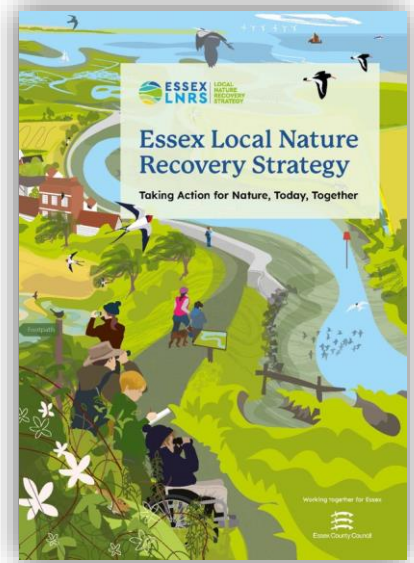
Young Planners Conference: Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) Breakout Session

Helena Taylor

Gabriella Yeomans

What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)?

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are designed to drive action for nature recovery and further environment benefits across England
- **LNRS were made mandatory by the Environment Act 2021**
- Essex County Council is the Responsible Authority appointed to deliver the LNRS on behalf of Greater Essex
- **Cambridgeshire County Council are acting as Responsible Authority on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)**
- 48 LNRSs – forming the nation-wide **Nature Recovery Network**
- **Created in collaboration with farmers and landowners, key environmental stakeholders, as well as Supporting Authorities and members of the public**
- Once complete, LNRSs will highlight areas where nature is thriving, opportunities for potential habitat creation or enhancement, a strategy for recovery



Why do we need LNRs?

Nature Crisis

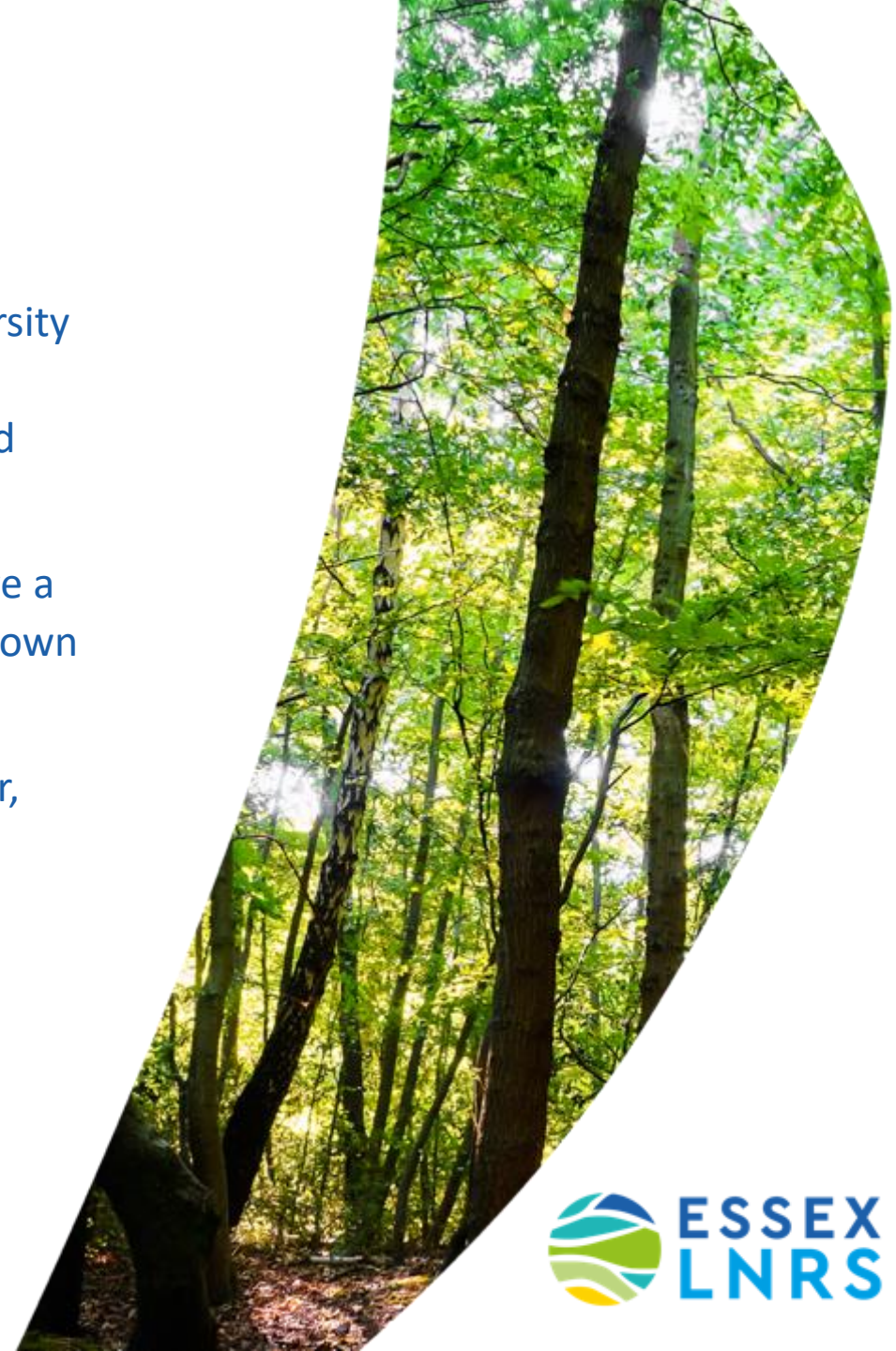
- **Decline and loss of species**
 - 1 in 6 species at risk of being lost from Great Britain
 - 55% decline in farm birds
 - 32% decline in species' abundance in England
- **Habitat loss**
 - UK lowest 12% for biodiversity intactness
- **Increased fragments habitat**
 - Decrease of connectivity for 19% of species

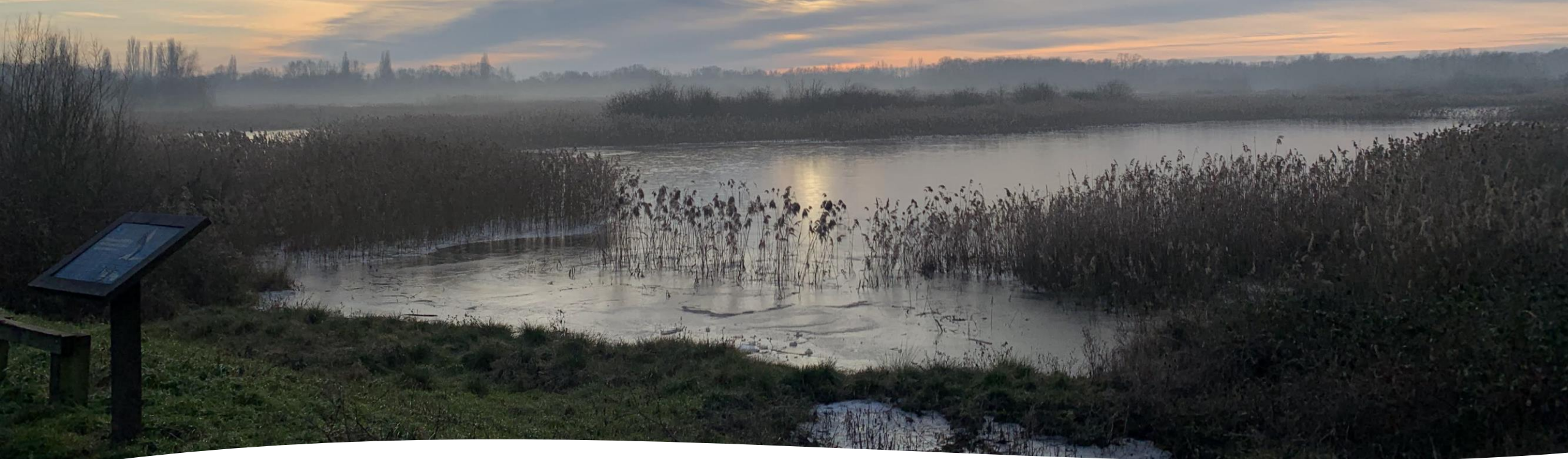
Biodiversity legislation

- LNRs could help to direct future nature recovery action and funding into targeted areas
- NPPF recent consultation
- Levelling up Act – “take account” of LNRs
- **Biodiversity Net Gain**
 - LNRs will help direct BNG funding into areas that will deliver the greatest benefits to nature

What can LNRs achieve?

- A map highlighting existing spaces of importance for biodiversity and map(s) of opportunities for nature recovery and habitat creation, leading to better co-ordination and more connected habitat creation
- The UK formally made a commitment to protect and conserve a minimum of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030, known as 30x30. LNRs play a key role in achieving this nationally.
- Co-ordinated approach enables better results – Bigger, Better, More connected
- A practical delivery tool to drive coordinated ‘on the ground’ action for habitat creation and enhancement





How do LNRSs link to national planning legislation?

- The completed LNRS will be a consideration in planning matters and influence central funding streams to deliver improvements for our environment.
- Local nature recovery strategies should be used by plan-makers to inform the way they address the National Planning Policy Framework requirement for plans to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- Biodiversity Net Gain - the expectation is that LNRS will be used to help inform how and where biodiversity net gain should be delivered, i.e. which habitats are appropriate in what locations. LNRS can be used to target offsite BNG so that it contributes to the Nature Recovery Network and the LNRS can be used as to determine the 'strategic significance' score that is part of the Biodiversity Metric scoring approach.
- "Take account" - Levelling up act – will make changes to the planning system and will include how LNRSs should be given weight in the plan making process.



How can LNRs support, and work with, biodiversity planning legislation? / How does the LNRs link to other areas of your council's work?





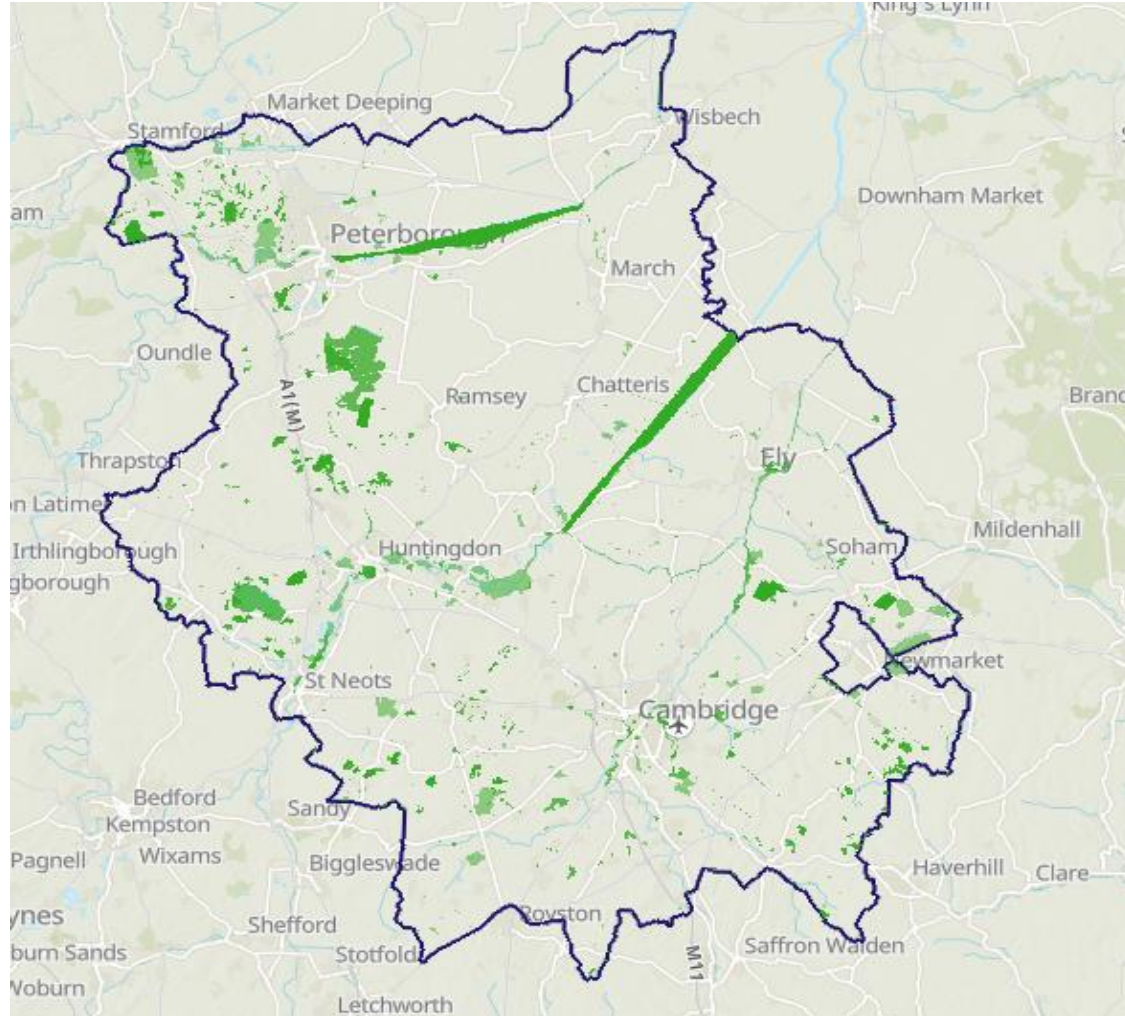
What can you find when you google 'nature recovery' in your county?

- Are you aware of nature recovery priorities and important habitats in your county?
- Google “nature” or “nature recovery” in your county and note down your findings

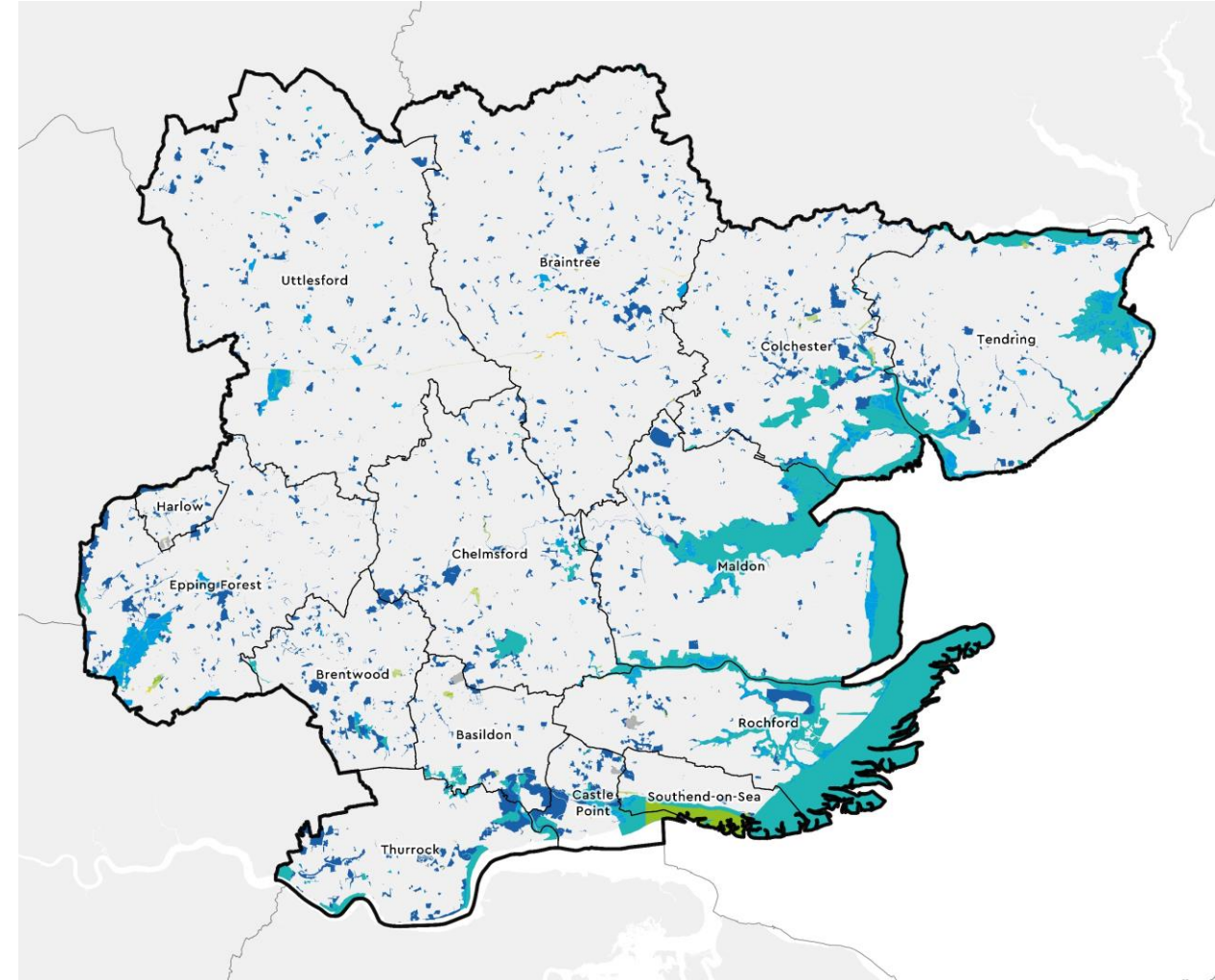


Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

LNRS: Areas of Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)



Essex LNRS: Areas of Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)



Thank you!

Useful Links:

PAS:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/environment/nature-recovery-local-authorities>

GOV:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies/local-nature-recovery-strategies>

BNG and LNRS:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain-what-local-planning-authorities-should-do>

Engage with your counties LNRS!



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY





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Q&A

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